

International Conference:

Global Histories of Capitalism & the Environment

Ten-Year Anniversary Event and Celebration of the Weatherhead Initiative on Global History at Harvard University

Organizer: Moritz von Brescius

June 2-4, University of Basel

Monday, June 2, 2025:

9:00 Welcome Remarks, Moritz von Brescius (Bern)

9:10-10:45 Keynote Lecture & Conversation

Charles Maier (Harvard): Global History: A Ten-Year Perspective

Sven Beckert (Harvard): Reflections on Doing Global History

Moderator: Corey Ross (Basel)

10:45-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-12:30 Panel I: Commodities and Imperial Ambitions

Mary D. Lewis (Harvard): Transplanting Empire: Bourbon Island, Illegal Slaving, and the Conversion from Coffee to Sugar, 1815–1830

Jaewoong Jeon (NYU): Contesting Capitalism: An Early Modern (Pre)History of Capitalism in Taiwan and Korea

Jay Sarkar (Glasgow): Global Southwests: Capital and Uranium in the American Southwest and Southwest Africa

12:30-14:00: Lunch

14:00-15:30 Panel II: Capitalism, Global Environments and the more-than-human World

Moritz von Brescius (Bern): Conserve by Acceleration: Rubber Extraction and Capitalist Calculations of Depletion and Scarcity

Matthew Shutzer (Berkeley): Fossil Fuels in the Long-Nineteenth Century: Rethinking the Global Environmental History of Energy

15:30-15:45 Coffee Break

15:45-17:00 Panel III: Trade and Extraction

Gabriel Sterman (Universidade de São Paulo): Coffee, Slavery and Finance in 19th Century Brazil: a Global Perspective

Megan A. Black (MIT), Stockholm Syndrome: Multinational Mining and Environmental NGOs at the United Nations

Commentary: Thomas David (Lausanne)

17:00 Mid-Conference Commentary & Discussion

Commentaries:
Christoph Conrad (Geneva)
Benjamin Brendel (Marburg)
Mandy Izady (Harvard)

19:00 Conference Dinner

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Day 2. Tuesday, June 3, 2025

9:00-10:30 Panel IV: Capitalism and "Development"

Julia McClure (Glasgow): The Failure of the West: A New Global History of the Wealth and Poverty of Nations

Javier Francisco (Freiburg): The Ecological Maelstrom of Plantations: Assessing Environmental Multiple Trajectories in the Early Modern Caribbean

Jesus Bohorquez (Lisbon): Between New York and Havana: Capital(ism), Slavery, Factory Plantations and Rent Distribution in the Age of Energy transition (1750-1850)

10:30-10:45 Coffee Break

10:45-12:15 Panel V: The Political Economy of Empire

Adriana Chira (Emory): Early modern credit systems and the participation of enslaved people in Havana

Jamie Martin (Harvard): The Outbreak of the First World War, the Global Economic Crisis of 1914, and the Rise of Bailout Capitalism

12:15-13:20 Lunch

13:20 Joint departure to the Global Europe Institute

14:00-15:30 Panel VI: Intellectual Histories Global Capitalism

Tâmis Peixoto Parron (Universidade Federal Fluminense): Public Power and Slavery, from Antiquity to Liberalism

Osama Siddiqui (Providence): Reading John Stuart Mill in India: Towards a Global History of Economic Thought

Tarık Tansu Yiğit (Ankara): The contracts to win the Orient: The interplay of formality and informality in the onset of American-Ottoman small arms business

15:30-15:45 Coffee Break

15:45-17:15 Panel VII Economic Statecraft East and West

Matteo Giordano (Chicago): *Whatever it takes*. Fascist project-power, experimental economic statecraft, and the remaking of the global order

Stefan Link (Dartmouth): States in global histories of capitalism: some critical reflections

James Nealy (NYU): The Soviet Union and Global Capitalism, Pariah or Participant?: A View from the Factory Floor

16:00-17:30 Concluding Roundtable and Discussion

Commentaries:
Zaib un Nisa Aziz (Tampa Florida)
Sugata Bose (Harvard)
Tehila Sasson (Oxford)

18:30 End of Conference Dinner & Weatherhead Anniversary Party

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Wednesday, June 4, 2025:

Debrief and planning for the publication

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